

Our Prayer Diary



Caniskay Church



Clrig Church



Keiso Church



Dunnet Church



September 2023

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him
my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart
exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*

Psalm 28:7

Friday 1st

Loving God, thank You for so graciously answering our prayers for the Royal Service last month. What a joy and privilege it was to worship with our gracious King, our Church Family, and with new and old friends. Every aspect of the day was richly blessed and it has been a source of joy to share with some friends who were unable to be with us.

Saturday 2nd

Traditionally this is the month when students begin further education. Many young people leave their home in Caithness and travel south to study. Gracious God we ask You keep them in your care and help them to have a good work/recreation balance as they take the first steps to their chosen career.

Sunday 3rd

Father, we pray for all those affected by the wild fires that are causing so much damage. Please protect Your people and Your animals. We pray for rain to fall to extinguish the fires. Please send help to those in need.

Monday 4th

We pray that the September weather conditions will be favourable for the farmers so that all their crops may be safely gathered in. For people who have small holdings it can be frustrating to have to wait their turn for the harvesting contractor to come to them, when the crop is ready and the weather good.

Tuesday 5th

Tonight Caithness Presbytery meets for the first time since the summer break. It had been hoped that a vote would take place on the new proposed Mission Plan, however the vote has been postponed as the Presbytery Planning Committee is still in the process of meeting with all the Kirk sessions.

Heavenly Father we come before You seeking Your will as Presbytery seeks support for the new proposed Mission Plan. Developing the way forward has been a long and challenging process with passionately held views. Your will be done, and we ask that Your guidance and wisdom is bestowed upon all involved, both with those who have to make final decisions about the future of our churches and with the members of our congregations such that the outcome of the rescheduled vote can be accepted graciously and the revised plan implemented successfully.

Wednesday 6th *Prayer Time 2.00 pm at the home of Rev Esme Duncan*

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian Mission organisation that uses light aircraft to overcome barriers of isolation such as jungles, mountains, swamps, and dilapidated infrastructure in some of the world's remotest places. The pilots and personnel deliver doctors, pastors, school books, medicines, in fact anything that can be safely and speedily transported by air. Father God we pray that this can continue to happen and more people benefit from the service.

Thursday 7th

We are very fortunate to have volunteers who cut the grass around our church buildings and clean the churches. This preserves and enhances the appearance of the grounds and church interiors. Loving Father we ask Your blessing on each one of them as they give up their time and share their talents to do these tasks.

Friday 8th

October will see our friends at Castletown and Community Free Church coordinating the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal. Each year people very generously donate items to this. There is no obligation to fill a box, even a few items will be gratefully received. A leaflet will be available in each of the four churches in our parish should you be unsure of what is suitable to be included in the box. Perhaps you can consider buying an item or two when you are shopping over the next few weeks.

Loving Lord we pray that each person receiving a box will know Your love and get much joy from the contents of the box.

Saturday 9th

We remember Church Family members who used to sit beside us in the pews and enjoy fellowship with us after the services but who are no longer able to come to church. Loving God please be with them in the care home or their own homes. We still think of them and ask You will surround them with Your arms of love and healing.

Sunday 10th

Lord, please renew our spirits and cleanse our hearts. Renew our minds and transform our lives - may all we do, be what Jesus would do.

Monday 11th

Loving God, thank You for friends! The weeks of summer have given most of us the precious opportunity to spend time with friends and we have been richly blessed. September brings us the reminder that things are back to normal but many of us have precious photos on our phones to help us re-live happy experiences. Hopefully we shall remember promises made to pray for our friends. God never has too many people in His inbox and He will answer far beyond our asking.

Tuesday 12th

Heavenly Father we pray for all those who struggle with addiction. We hear more every day about the devastation caused to families and loved ones through this dreadful problem. Be with those whose lives are ruined by the increasing use of banned substances and with Your help, may they find the strength to turn their lives around.

Wednesday 13th *Prayer Time - 2 pm in Canisbay Church Hall*

"They won't follow a stranger: they will run from him because they don't know his voice." John 10 verse 5 (NLT). In Ibbie MacIver's book *Gleanings of a Shepherd's Wife* she talks of sheep recognising the farmer's voice. She then asks the question is she herself close enough to the Good Shepherd to recognise His voice when He calls to her. She knows He wants to supply her needs and feed her - with spiritual food. This is available to all of us.

Thursday 14th

"I am learning more about how You must love me, dear God!" she said as she brushed her hair a few days after starting chemotherapy! *"Your Word assures me that You know how many hairs were on my head this time last month."* The lady who spoke these words is not known to us but, please add her to your prayers.

Friday 15th

Britain has an ageing population, however in 2023 older people who are not so mobile fortunately have access to many aids. We give thanks for modern technology which allows people to get around in mobility scooters, use walking frames with seats incorporated, etc. Public buildings now have Disabled Access points and lifts installed. Dear Lord, if we know a person who is not so agile help us to encourage them to go out and help them when we can so they can still feel part of the community.

Saturday 16th

Father we pray that we would be people of integrity and compassion, and always seek justice for all. Help us to stand up when we see something wrong and come alongside those struggling - help us to be Jesus' hands and feet to all we meet.

Sunday 17th

Thank you Lord, that Your light which scattered the darkness of the tomb continues to shine today, and that nothing finally will ever be able to overcome it.

Monday 18th

Four Paws has something slightly different for us this month.

God told Adam and Eve he would give them something that was a reflection of His love for them. He created a new animal to be a companion for them that would accept them and love them unconditionally. It was to be called DOG which is God spelled backwards. Adam and Eve were content, God was pleased and Dog wagged his tail.

After a while it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said *"Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."* And God said *"I will create for them a different companion who will be with them and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations so they will know they are not always worthy of adoration."* And God created CAT to be their new companion.

Unlike Dog, Cat would not obey them and when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes they were reminded that they were not supreme beings. Adam and Eve learned humility and they were greatly improved. God was pleased, Dog was happy, and Cat did its own thing.....

Dear Father, help us to be humble, to think of others before ourselves, and to act with humility in consideration of Your unconditional love.

Tuesday 19th

Lord we pray for revival. Please soften hearts and help us to repent and turn to You. You alone are God and we adore and worship You.

Wednesday 20th *Prayer Time - 2 pm in Canisbay Church Hall*

Father God, thank you that we can greet each day assured that Your love surrounds us and that Your everlasting arms will never let go.
Amen

Thursday 21st

Today is World Alzheimer's Day. We pray for all the people that have this debilitating condition and those caring for loved ones suffering from it. We also pray that more effective treatments will be developed. We think especially of those from our own Church Family and local community who are affected.

Friday 22nd

Father God, show us where our faith is weak and vulnerable, and help us to build it up before it collapses completely.

Saturday 23rd

Today is the September Equinox and the official start of Autumn. By now many of the evening activities available to us have started up. It is colder and gets dark earlier at night. With the trees turning colour and crunchy leaves on the ground there is a bounty of God's great beauty around. Dear Father, give us the strength and encouragement to try to get out each day to revel in Your making, even if only for a little breath of fresh air.

Sunday 24th

The Message Bible - Psalm 34 verse 18: *'If your heart is broken, you'll find God right there.'*

There are many people in the community who are grieving the loss of a loved one. God alone is our Rock, our Shelter and our Fortress. He is not only present with us, but near. He is near to the pain that is felt, near to the loss we can't fill. Near to the needs we have and can't yet express.

Monday 25th

The key priority of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is to ensure that NHS Scotland has enough blood to meet the transfusion needs of patients in Scotland. Heavenly Father we offer thanks to all Blood Donors. Through their selfless giving of a pint of blood they are adding to the Blood Bank available to all who are unwell and in need of transfusions.

Tuesday 26th

This afternoon will be the first meeting of the new session for Pentland Parish Guild. It is open to both men and ladies. This month we are having a soup and sweet lunch. Please do come along to Canisbay Church Hall at 1.00 pm where you will be given a warm welcome and some tasty food.

Almighty God, please bless all who have prepared the food and all who go along to enjoy the meal and fellowship in Your house.

Wednesday 27th *Prayer Time - 2 pm in Canisbay Church Hall*

Thank you Father God for Jesus! What an amazing love - we pray that all may come to know how dearly loved they are by You.

Thursday 28th

Thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, and that we have not been left alone, but we have a wonderful comforter who calms our fears and fills us with hope. We pray that all may know the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

Friday 29th

This weekend sees many Coffee Mornings being held for the *Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning* event. Do look out for one in your area and go along to it if you can. Dear God, there are not many people whose lives have not been touched by cancer. Be with the sufferers and their families; give them strength and courage to face the future.

Psalm 18 verse 39: *For You equipped me with strength for battle; You made those who rise against me sink under me.*

Saturday 30th

A Helen Steiner Rice poem based on Psalm 68 verse 19: *Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits.*

*Thank you God for little things that often come our way -
The things we take for granted but don't mention when we pray -
The unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed -
A hand reached out to help us in the time of sudden need -
Oh, make us more aware, dear God, of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet surprise" from never-dreamed-of places.*



The Church of Scotland

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**This prayer diary is produced monthly by and for
PENTLAND PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
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meeting in four congregations around the Caithness Coast:
CANISBAY, DUNNET, KEISS and OLRIG.**

We hope and trust its regular use will strengthen the bond between our congregations as we share news and support one another.

This diary also goes by e-mail to a growing number of friends throughout Scotland and we are sincerely grateful for their interest and support. Feel free to commend it to others, and if they express a wish to receive it please forward their contact details to the Editor.

If you have found this Prayer Diary helpful please let us know, and if there is any topic or any particular prayer you would like included in a future issue please contact the Editor, Liz Buchan, via:

e-mail: neilbuchan007@btinternet.com or phone: 01847 821759

**Copy date for the October issue is Monday 18 September.
We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!**

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